Military Co-operation between India and the US

652. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the military co-operation between India and the US is under renewal process;

(b) if so, by when it would be renewed;

(c) whether any agreement has been made recently for our defence ties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Military cooperation between India and the US has been renewed through a number of exchange of visits and high level policy dialogues, including the visit of Secretary of Defence of US to India in November, 2001 and the visit of Raksha Mantri to US in January, 2002. Strengthening of the Defence cooperation ties between India and US is an ongoing process and no specific time-frame can be assigned for this purpose.

(c) During the January 2002 visit of Raksha Mantri to the US, an agreement was signed between the Government of India and the Government of USA for the protection of classified military information which may be shared between the two countries.

(d) The above is only a general agreement to ensure adequate security of such classified military information as may be decided to be shared by each country.

Test firing of Trishul

653. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Trishul was again test fired on January 30th, 2002; and

(b) the main features of this missile and the reasons and the results of test firing the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Surface-to-Air Trishul Missile was flight tested on 28th and 29th January, 2002.

(b) Trishul with quick reaction time has a range of 9 km. It is a multi-role missile for all the three Services. The last test flight was conducted to establish command guidance system in a sea skimmer mode and the test demonstrated that the missiles hit the floating and simulated targets accurately.

Increasing budget grants for the Coast Guard

654. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-items captioned Coast Guard at Sea with scanty resources appearing in Hindustan Times dated the I st February, 2002;

(b) whether the Coast Guard Department has asked for increase in their budget grant in order to meet the increased responsibility for sea vigil over the next five years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to augment their grant?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government is aware of the Budgetary requirements posed by the Coast Guard and would make appropriate provisions during the Xth Plan keeping in view the role envisaged for the Coast Guard and the resources available.

Pak UAVs shot down by India

655. SHRI K. RAMA MOHAN A RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) belonging to Pakistan shot down by India during the last three years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the Indian UAVs have also been shot down by Pakistan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;